

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: [www.senate.gov/~dorgan](http://www.senate.gov/~dorgan)

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CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt

or Dana McCallum

PHONE: 202-224-2551

## **STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BYRON DORGAN FOLLOWING THE VOTE BY THE U.S. SENATE TO CONFIRM KERMIT BYE AS A JUDGE ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) --- The United States Senate voted 98-0 Thursday to confirm Kermit Bye of Fargo to be a Judge on the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit of Appeals. U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) made the following statement on the Senate floor Thursday following the vote.

### **TEXT OF REMARKS BY U.S. SENATOR BYRON DORGAN**

February 24, 2000  
U.S. Senate - Washington, D.C.

I am so pleased that the Senate has confirmed Kermit Bye's nomination to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Kermit Bye is one of North Dakota's most distinguished and respected attorneys, and a senior partner in one of the top law firms in the Midwest. He has nearly 40 years of trial and appellate experience, he was President of the North Dakota Bar Association, and he's received the North Dakota State Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award.

I won't name every civic and community organization that Kermit Bye has chaired and served on, because the list is too long. Instead, I'll say Kermit Bye cares deeply about the law and about the people our laws protect.

He is a man of impeccable integrity and sound judgement, possessing a formidable intellect and a healthy dose of North Dakota common sense. Kermit is temperamentally very well-suited for the bench, and can be counted on as a fair-minded jurist who understands the importance of the rule of law to society, and the judiciary's proper role within our constitutional system.

As many will recall, this seat on the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals was first vacated in April 1997, and my fellow North Dakotan John Kelly was nominated and confirmed to this seat last summer. Tragically, just a few weeks after taking his oath, Judge Kelly took ill and passed away.

I'm pleased today that Kermit Bye has been confirmed to fill this vacancy so that our Federal judiciary can benefit from his wisdom and judgement.

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